

Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Len Peters, Secretary

CONTACT: Dick Brown

502-564-5525

State mining officials investigating flyrock incident in Floyd County

Boulder damages home, others threatened

FRANKFORT, KY – (Aug. 29, 2009) – Officials from the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (DMRE) are on the scene of a surface mining flyrock incident that has left one home damaged and others threatened by boulders and loose rock for the site.

The incident is near Martin in Floyd County and was reported to state officials late Friday afternoon. DMRE inspectors have been on the site since Friday evening and Saturday were joined by Energy and Environment Secretary Len Peters. According to state officials, the Frasure Creek Mining Co. is the permit holder for the mining site. DMRE reports, an on-site blast sent a boulder approximately 4 feet in length, 9 feet high and 6 feet in width down the hillside and into a home near state route 1210. No one was home at the time of the incident and no injuries have been reported.

Two nearby homes were thought to have been in danger of more debris coming down the hill, and the residents were asked to leave. The mining company arranged for overnight lodging for all of the impacted residents and have been working with state DMRE officials to secure the site above the homes. The company is building a catch basin below the rocks and will spend the day Saturday working to secure the area.